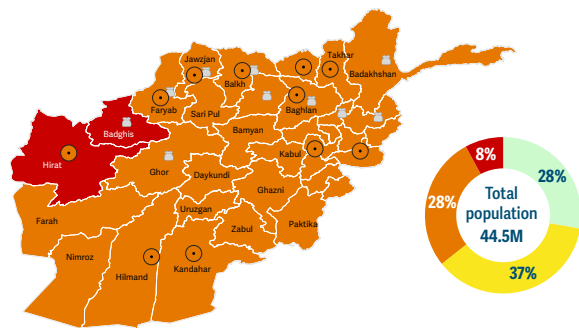# Afghanistan

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | A food crisis that continued to improve but remained severe, widespread and above pre-2021 levels.

PEAK 2024 (NOVEMBER 2023–MARCH 2024)

15.8M people or **36%** of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity. Of them, around **3.6M** were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) during the lean season.

This improvement since the 2023 peak – when 6.1 million people faced IPC Phase 4 – is due to food and agriculture assistance, good harvests and reduced inflation.
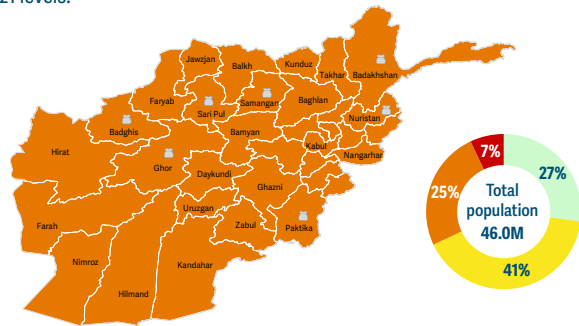
Total population 44.5M
- 28%
- 37%
- 28%
- 8%

Source: Afghanistan IPC TWG, December 2023.

PROJECTION 2025 (NOVEMBER 2024–MARCH 2025)

14.8M people or **32%** of the total population are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity during the lean season. Of them, around **3.1M** are projected to be in IPC Phase 4.

This marks a further improvement but still above pre-COVID-19 and 2021 levels.

Total population 46.0M
- 27%
- 41%
- 25%
- 7%

Source: Afghanistan IPC TWG, January 2025.

- 1 - None/Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Catastrophe/Famine
- Total population
- At least 25% of households meet 25–50% of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance
- Urban settlement classification

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2024–2025

Economic shocks Deflationary trends continued through 2024, resulting in decreasing prices, including for basic food commodities, but slowing economic growth (WFP, November 2024). Widespread unemployment continued to limit purchasing power, especially in urban areas, amid limited fiscal capacity to stimulate the economy. The expected shift of deflationary pressure to inflation in 2025 risks eroding household purchasing power, especially as the economy continues to stagnate (WB, December 2024).

Weather extremes El Niño-driven above-average precipitation from October 2023 to May 2024 resulted in above-average crop production in 2024 and reduced import requirements (FAO-GIEWS, November 2024). An unusual dry snap in January–February preceded flooding in all 34 provinces that destroyed and damaged shelter and infrastructure (OCHA, November 2024). La Niña conditions caused above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation from October 2024 to May 2025, especially in northern and central areas, straining agricultural productivity. Below-average snowpack and snow water volumes due to high temperatures adversely affected crop growth (FAO, November 2024).

Conflict/insecurity Overall levels of armed conflict remain low, but human rights violations against, and repression of, civil society, minorities, and women and girls, continue to deepen, also limiting their participation in the economy and their access to food (ACLED, November 2024; OHCHR, August 2024).
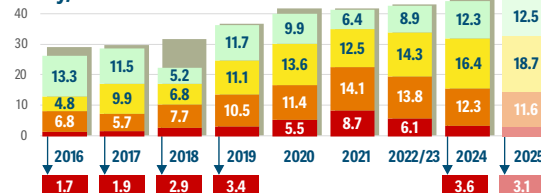
DISPLACEMENT

0.04M refugees and asylum-seekers
Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2024.

5.7M IDPs
Source: IDMC, May 2024.

Peak numbers of people (in millions) by categories of acute food insecurity, 2016–2025

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022/23	2024	2025
	13.3	11.5	5.2	11.7	9.9	6.4	8.9	12.3	12.5
	4.8	9.9	6.8	11.1	13.6	12.5	14.3	16.4	18.7
	6.8	5.7	7.7	10.5	11.4	14.1	13.8	12.3	11.6
					5.5	8.7	6.1		
	1.7	1.9	2.9	3.4				3.6	3.1

2019–2022 country population estimates are based on a different source (Flowminder).
Source: Afghanistan IPC TWG.

A protracted food crisis A low-income country, Afghanistan has been in all editions of the GRFC and is always one of the ten worst food crises in terms of numbers of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity. Since the 2021 political transition and the economic turmoil, which resulted in 22.8 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity, households' capacity to meet basic needs has continued to improve.

NUTRITION CRISIS | The nutrition situation improved but areas were still in Critical due to poor diets, diseases and low access to WASH.

PEAK 2024 (NOVEMBER 2024–MAY 2025)

Out of 34 areas, 28 were classified in Serious or worse (IPC AMN Phase 3 or above). Four – Hilmand, Kandahar, Nuristan and Paktika – were classified in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4). This is a marked improvement since the same period in 2022–2023, when 17 provinces were classified in IPC AMN Phase 4.

Sources: Afghanistan IPC TWG, January 2025.

ACUTE MALNUTRITION BURDEN (JUNE 2024–MAY 2025)

3.5M children aged 6–59 months

1.2M pregnant and breastfeeding women

- 2.6M MAM
- 0.9M SAM

Source: Afghanistan IPC TWG, January 2025.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Only 6.8 percent of children aged 6–23 months met the minimum acceptable diet, ranging from 0.2 to 39.4 percent (IPC, January 2025). Fever, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infection prevalence was higher than in 2023. The country suffered from significant measles and cholera outbreaks. Kandahar province recorded 60 percent of the country's polio cases (IPC, January 2025; WHO, January 2025).

Households had low levels of access to safe drinking water and water for household use. In half of the provinces, fewer than 60 percent had access to improved sanitation (IPC, January 2025). Drought-related water scarcity in Kandahar province increased the spread of disease (UN, December 2024).

Access to health and nutrition services reduced in hard-to-reach areas, with 50 percent fewer mobile health and nutrition teams between January and September 2024 compared with 2023. More than 450 MAM treatment sites closed, with 635 000 children deprived of preventative rations from January to August 2024, increasing their nutrition vulnerability. Pregnant and breastfeeding women lacked support for optimal infant and young child feeding practices. Flooding further reduced access to health, especially in Nuristan, Hilmand and Paktika provinces (IPC, January 2025).

- 1 - Acceptable
- 2 - Alert
- 3 - Serious
- 4 - Critical
- 5 - Extremely Critical
- Not analysed
- Inadequate evidence
- MUAC